

sleepwear and to educate parents regarding the dangers inherent in untreated sleepwear worn by many children.

Burn Awareness Week can help foster awareness among parents and protect young children from the horrors of burn injuries. It also focuses additional attention on the research and treatment of those burn injuries that do occur. Mr. Speaker, charitable organizations such as Shriners Hospitals deserve great credit for their outstanding work on behalf of our Nation's children. I rise today to recognize and support the efforts of the Shriners Hospital in Boston and the importance of Burn Awareness Week.

HONORING MR. LONNIE EUGENE ROARK

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my uncle, Lonnie Eugene Roark, on his 80th birthday.

My uncle was born on February 11, 1922 in Missouri. He was raised in Oklahoma and lived most of his life in La Puente, California.

My uncle is an excellent father to his three children and two grandchildren and serves as a role model for many others. When his daughter's husband passed away, he assumed the role as father figure to his granddaughter. He would often take her lunch to school, school functions, and doctor visits. But most importantly, by taking on a paternal role, he filled that empty void in her life.

His acts of kindness and dedication have inspired many who know him. It is a true blessing to have been raised with a role model like him. It is not every day that we encounter a person filled with such generosity and love.

Today, I want to wish him a happy birthday and because I am especially grateful to be celebrating his 80th birthday because as he grows older, I realize how precious his life is and how he has been a great source of strength and support for our family. I, like many people who know him, admire him and love him dearly.

CHICAGO'S UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight a recently released study entitled: "Chicago's Undocumented Immigrants: An Analysis of Wages, Working Conditions, and Economic Contributions." This report details the importance of the undocumented immigrant labor force to the local economy and the poor working conditions that many endure. I have included a Washington Post article that appeared on February 10, 2001 and the Executive Summary from the study, which underscores some of the study's most significant findings.

This study was carried out during the 3rd quarter of 2001 through 38 community based

organizations, community colleges, social service providers, and churches. In total, over 1,600 immigrants were surveyed in the Chicago area. The results revealed that the estimated 220,000 undocumented immigrants in the Chicago area contribute close to \$5.5 billion to the local economy. Furthermore, undocumented immigrants create more than 31,000 jobs, make up about 5% of the labor force, and 7 out of 10 or 70% pay income taxes through payroll deductions. The overall impact on the economy is dramatic considering immigrants without legal documentation earn anywhere from 22–36% less than those here legally.

This study provides a glimpse into the urban picture of the enormous contributions undocumented immigrants provide to our economy and the deplorable conditions under which they are subjected to work. With close to 6 million undocumented immigrants working and living in the United States, the potential impact on the national economy and the potential to improve the lives of this population through a legalization program are immeasurable, but they all point in the right direction. I urge my colleagues to look through this study and see for themselves.

[From The Washington Post Feb. 10, 2002]

CHICAGO'S UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

(By Robert E. Pierre)

The push for the legalization of undocumented immigrants was put on the back burner after September's terrorist attacks. But a study released last week reopens the question of what they contribute to the U.S. economy.

The estimated 220,000 undocumented immigrants in the Chicago area add nearly \$ 5.5 billion to the local economy, creating more than 31,000 jobs, according to the study by the Center for Urban Economic Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. These undocumented workers make up about 5 percent of the labor market, the survey indicated—and seven out of 10 pay income taxes through payroll deductions taken by their employers.

Still, the survey of 1,653 legal and illegal immigrants living in Chicago and five surrounding counties also found that those without legal documentation generally are paid less than those who are legally in the United States. That's true regardless of their education, skill level and English proficiency, particularly among immigrants from Latin America.

"You can have two workers with exactly the same characteristics, and one will earn 20 to 25 percent less because they don't have legal status," said Chirag Mehta, a UIC research associate.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights urged amnesty for such immigrants: "Such findings confirm the importance of a new legalization program and the positive impact that undocumented immigrant labor has on the United States," it said in a statement.

[From the University of Illinois at Chicago]

CHICAGO'S UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS: AN ANALYSIS OF WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS, AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Undocumented immigrants are strongly committed to working in the United States and they make significant contributions to the economy. Undocumented workers account for approximately 5% of the Chicago metro area labor market and represent a growing segment of the low-wage workforce.

Undocumented immigrants earn low wages, work in unsafe conditions, and have low rates of health insurance. Juxtaposed against these harsh realities is the fact that the undocumented workforce supports thousands of other workers in the local economy, pays taxes, and demonstrates little reliance on government benefits.

This study reports the findings of a survey of 1,653 documented and undocumented immigrants living in the Chicago metro area. Using a standardized questionnaire, immigrants were asked a series of questions regarding their employment status, wages and working conditions, access to health care, utilization of government safety-net programs, demographic characteristics, and legal status. The key questions that guided this analysis include:

To what extent does working without legal status increase the likelihood of unemployment and depress workers' wages?

To what extent do undocumented immigrants more often work in unsafe working conditions?

To what extent do undocumented immigrants utilize government safety-net programs?

What economic contributions do undocumented immigrants make to the local economy?

KEY FINDINGS

1. Labor force participation and unemployment

Undocumented immigrants seek work at extremely high rates (91%), and most do not experience unemployment at rates that are significantly different than the Chicago metro area average. However, undocumented Latin-American women experience unemployment rates that approach 20%, five times as high as the average unemployment rate for the remainder of the undocumented workforce. Factors that significantly increase the likelihood of unemployment include:

the combined effect of undocumented status, being female, and being of Latin-American origin;

the lack of dependent care; and obtaining work through temporary staffing agencies.

2. Wages

Most undocumented immigrants are employed in low-wage service and laborer occupations. Approximately, 30% of undocumented immigrants work in restaurant-related, hand-packing and assembly, and janitorial and cleaning jobs. The average (median) hourly wage earned by undocumented workers is \$7.00.

All else being equal, working without legal status, in combination with the effects of national origin and gender, induces significant wage penalties for Latin Americans:

Undocumented Latin-American men and women experience statistically significant wage penalties—22% and 36%—respectively—after controlling for length of U.S. work experience, education, English proficiency, and occupation.

Eastern-European women experience wage penalties as a result of their national origin and gender, but they do not experience penalties associated with their legal status.

Eastern-European men, documented Latin-American men, and immigrants from Asia, the Middle East, and Western Europe do not experience wage penalties associated with their national origin, gender, or legal status.

Factors including English proficiency, unionization, and obtaining employment in higher-paying occupations help undocumented Latin Americans earn higher wages. Educational attainment, however, does not have significant positive wage effects for undocumented Latin Americans. Importantly,